

News From

U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski

Democrat from Maryland



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2009

CONTACT: Rachel MacKnight
Cassie Harvey
202-228-1122

CHAIRWOMAN MIKULSKI PRESENTS SPENDING BILL TO FUND A SAFER, SMARTER AMERICA

WASHINGTON, DC – Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee **Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.)** today presented the fiscal year 2010 CJS spending bill for mark-up in the CJS Appropriations Subcommittee. Chairwoman Mikulski has focused this year's bill on keeping Americans safe from terrorism and violent crime, investing in the science and technology that will create new technologies and new American jobs, and ensuring a timely and accurate 2010 census.

For more information about the fiscal year 2010 CJS bill, go to
<http://www.mikulski.senate.gov/pdfs/Press/CJSFY10Summary.pdf>

Chairwoman Mikulski's opening statement, as prepared for delivery, follows:

"The CJS Subcommittee will come to order. We are meeting today to mark up the fiscal year 2010 CJS bill. The bill totals almost \$64.8 billion in discretionary spending and is consistent with the Subcommittee's 302(b) allocation. Subcommittee members have received a copy of a chart showing the funding levels in the bill and your staff has had the opportunity to read the bill and report.

"The CJS bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation. I want to thank Senator Shelby and his staff, and I thank Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran for our allocation. We were able to write a very good bill, but the stringent budget environment required the Subcommittee to make difficult decisions.

"The Subcommittee's top priority is keeping Americans safe from terrorism and violent crime. The CJS bill provides \$27.4 billion for the Justice Department. The CJS bill is the major federal funding source for our state and local police departments.

-more-

“A total of \$3.2 billion is provided to support our thin blue line to keep our cops safe with equipment like bullet proof vests and to help them catch criminals as well as crime scene analysis and forensic tools. The bill provides \$510 million for Byrne formula grants, the main federal funding tool for state and local police operations, \$407 million for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention like mentoring and anti-gang programs, and \$435 million to prevent violence against women.

“In addition to helping our state and local law enforcement, the CJS bill funds our major federal law enforcement agencies. These agencies are the backbone of our criminal justice system. They catch and prosecute criminals and keep communities safe.

“The bill provides \$7.9 billion for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which keeps us safe from violent crime, investigates financial fraud and fights terrorism abroad and on the home front; \$2 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to fight international narco-terrorists and drug kingpins; \$1.1 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to combat violent gun crime and gangs, and investigate arson; \$1.2 billion for the Marshals Service to apprehend fugitive sex offenders and other violent criminals; \$1.9 billion for our U.S. Attorneys to prosecute gang leaders, gun traffickers and drug dealers; and \$6.1 billion for management and construction of federal prisons to keep our prison guards safe and our communities secure.

“Most important, this bill protects our children. We provide more than \$265 million to keep our kids safe from predators and violence. This bill includes \$35 million to hire 125 new U.S. Marshals to track down and arrest fugitive sex offenders, \$57 million for the FBI to catch deviants who use the internet to prey on children, \$36 million to hire 50 new assistant U.S. Attorneys to prosecute sex offenders, \$20 million for state and local law enforcement efforts to find and apprehend child predators, and \$16 million for grants to school districts to keep kids safe at school.

“I’m proud to report that the CJS bill follows the framework of the America COMPETES Act for investments to improve America’s competitiveness. The bill provides \$880 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including \$70 million for the new Technology Innovation Program; \$125 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP); and important funding to develop new technologies and new products to make American manufacturers more competitive. The CJS bill also provides \$6.9 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), including \$869 million for education that focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics to develop our next generation of scientists and engineers.

“For the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), we provide \$4.7 billion, including \$980 million for our weather service to predict and warn us about severe weather, \$879 million for our fisheries service to protect our marine resources and \$18.7 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We did not agree to the House’s strategy to cut more than \$500 million from NASA exploration. We meet our obligations to fully fund the Space Shuttle at \$3 billion, the Space Station at \$2 billion and the next generation space vehicle at \$3.6 billion this year.

-more-

“Finally, the CJS bill supports an innovation-friendly government. The bill provides full funding of \$2 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to reduce backlogs of patent applications and protect our intellectual property. The bill also provides \$460 million for the International Trade Administration to enforce our trade laws.

“I’m so proud that the CJS bill also protects our planet. It funds the science we use to monitor and predict changes in our weather and climate, as well as make policy decisions and take actions we should to save our planet. In fact, the CJS bill funds 80 percent of all federal climate change science. Specifically, we provide \$1.4 billion for NASA earth science. This funds important satellite missions that tell us how much pollution is in our atmosphere, how our rainforests and ice sheets are shifting, and how the height and chemistry of our oceans are changing.

“Funding for earth science includes \$135 million for new NASA earth science missions recommended by the National Academy of Science to measure our ice sheets, climate and atmosphere so we can better predict changes to our planet.

“The bill also provides \$650 million for NASA science to study how the sun affects the earth, which helps predict and warn about events like solar flares that can knock out our communications and power grids; \$1.2 billion for NOAA weather satellites, which are important early warning tools because if we can better predict and warn, we can save lives and save money; and \$430 million for NOAA research, which helps us better understand our oceans and atmosphere and how they interact and change.

“The CJS bill also will ensure that we meet our constitutional obligation to the 2010 Census. We provide a total of \$7 billion for the Census this year. This is \$50 million below the President’s request. We were able to find savings by bringing mileage reimbursement for temporary Census workers in line with rates for all federal employees.

“Finally, the CJS bill continues to emphasize congressional oversight, accountability and fiscal stewardship. The bill insists on discipline and vigorous oversight. It requires each agency to notify the Committee when costs of projects grow by more than 10 percent. It’s an early warning system. The bill also requires that Inspector Generals conduct random audits of grant funding to ensure compliance. Finally, the bill complies fully with legislative transparency and accountability rules.

“Again, I want to thank Senator Shelby and his staff for their cooperation and collegiality. The CJS bill meets the day to day needs of our constituents and keeps them safe from terrorism and violent crime and also looks out for the long term needs of our nation. It creates jobs for today and jobs for tomorrow. I look forward to moving this bill to the full Committee tomorrow and then on to the Senate floor. I urge my colleagues to support it.”

###